



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

December 18, 2013

NICOLE M. LACHAPELLE, TREASURER
MASSACHUSETTS DEMOCRATIC STATE CMTE
- FED FUNDS ACCT
77 SUMMER ST. FL. 10
BOSTON, MA 02110

Response Due Date
01/22/2014

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00089243

REFERENCE: AMENDED JULY MONTHLY REPORT (06/01/2013 - 06/30/2013),
RECEIVED 12/15/2013

Dear Treasurer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **Failure to adequately respond by the response date noted above could result in an audit or enforcement action.** Additional information is needed for the following 5 item(s):

1. Schedule A of your report (see attached) discloses one or more contributions which appear to exceed the limits set forth in the Act. Please be advised that 2 U.S.C. §441a(f) and 11 CFR §110.1(c) prohibit a state, district or local party committee (combined) from receiving any contribution from a person or non-multicandidate political committee in excess of \$10,000 per calendar year.

If any apparently excessive contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you must amend your original report with the clarifying information.

If any contribution you received exceeds the limits, you may have to refund the excessive amount. The funds can be retained if within 60 days of receipt, (1) the excessive amount was properly reattributed to another person, such as a joint account holder, by obtaining signed written authorizations from each person making the contribution pursuant to 11 CFR 110.1(k)(3), and (2) the treasurer informs the person making the contribution that he or she may request the return of the excessive portion of the contribution if it is not intended to be a joint contribution. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

Alternatively, the funds can be retained if within 60 days of receipt you (1)

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transferred the excessive amount to an account not used to influence federal elections, and (2) provided written notice to the person making the contribution of the option of receiving a refund. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

If the foregoing conditions for reattributions or transfers to a non-federal account were not met within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount must be refunded.

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action promptly in writing and provide a photocopy of your check for any transfer-out or refund. In addition, any reattributions should be reported as memo entries on Schedule A of the report covering the period during which the authorization for the reattribution is received. Any transfers-out or refunds should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 22 or 28 of the report during which the transaction was made.

Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding the acceptance of an excessive contribution(s), prompt action by your committee to seek reattribution, transfer-out or refund the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

2. Schedule B supporting Line 30(b) of your report discloses \$18,287.50 in activity identified as MEMO entries that do not appear to correspond with any itemized transaction(s). Please be advised, a memo entry is used to disclose additional information about an itemized transaction and the amount of a memo entry is not included in the total receipts or disbursements for the report. Please amend your report to provide clarifying information regarding this activity. (11 C.F.R. § 104.3(a) and (b))

3. Please amend your report by providing the address for each disbursement itemized on Schedule(s) B supporting Line(s) 30(b). (11 CFR §104.3(b)(3))

4. Schedule B supporting Line 30(b) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "Advertising-Newspaper", "Media Expense", and "Radio Advertising Expense" which is categorized as Federal Election Activity and therefore, may require the disclosure of the candidate(s) this activity should be attributed to. Expenditures and disbursements for public communications that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any candidate for Federal office, meet the definition of Federal Election Activity under 11 CFR §100.24 and should be disclosed on Schedule

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B for Line 30(b) along with the identity of the candidate(s).

Further, please be advised that public communications that meet the definition of Federal Election Activity and that also contain express advocacy as defined under 11 CFR §100.22, but do not meet the conditions of exempt activity, would constitute an in-kind contribution, an independent expenditure or a coordinated party expenditure and should be properly disclosed on a Schedule B, E or F supporting Lines 23, 24 or 25, as appropriate rather than on Schedule B for Line 30(b). Please clarify if this activity meets the definition of Federal Election Activity or if it contains express advocacy and amend your report to properly disclose this activity, if necessary.

5. On Schedule H1 of your report, you have checked an incorrect fixed percentage for your allocated federal and non-federal administrative, generic voter drive and exempt activity costs. The fixed percentage for these costs is based on whether a Presidential and/or a Senate candidate appear on the State's ballot. Please amend your report to include a corrected Schedule H1 and note that a change in this ratio may make it necessary to repay your non-federal account for any overpayments that may have been made. While the Commission may take further legal action concerning any impermissible overpayments by the non-federal account, your prompt action will be taken into consideration. (11 CFR §106.7(d)(2) and (3))

Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses must be received by the Commission on or before the due date noted above to be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.**

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1133.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Morse", written in a cursive style.

Christopher Morse
Senior Campaign Finance Analyst
Reports Analysis Division

Excessive Contributions**Massachusetts Democratic State Cmte - Fed Funds Acct (C00089243)****Excessive Contributions from Individuals**

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Report
Joseph Alsop	5/21/13	\$250.00	2013 June Monthly
Joseph Alsop	6/6/13	\$10,000.00	2013 July Monthly
James M. Cashman	6/17/13	\$10,000.00	2013 July Monthly
James M. Cashman	6/24/13	\$5,000.00	2013 July Monthly
Thomas Feeley	5/17/13	\$500.00	2013 June Monthly
Thomas Feeley	6/6/13	\$10,000.00	2013 July Monthly
Elizabeth A. Pettullo	3/19/13	\$10,000.00	2013 April Monthly
Elizabeth A. Pettullo	6/17/13	\$10,000.00	2013 July Monthly